



Type Title Here



2014 Trainings

Roadmap to Special Education:

~ Nov 7th - Evansville

Public Health Insurance:

~ Nov 6th - Evansville

My Child Has Special Needs: Now What?

~ Nov 6th - Indianapolis (SPANISH)

To view the calendar or register for a training, visit our website at www.aboutspecialkids.org

Happy October ~ Suzanne

Gift Buying for Children with Special Needs: Suggestions and Resources

By Holly Paauwe, parent and ASK staff parent liaison

Various holiday, birthdays and special events create the opportunity to give gifts to those we love. For many of us, this means buying gifts for children with special needs. As parents, family members or friends coming up with appropriate gift ideas for the children with special needs in our lives can feel challenging. How do we know what toys are appropriate for the child based on their skills and needs? Where can we find toys that don't take us to the "baby" aisles and doesn't break the bank? Finding a gift that is appropriate, engaging, fun and useful for the child should be our goal, but how do we go about doing that?

As a parent, it has taken some time and effort on my part to become a better gift giver to my daughter and help others in our circle to do the same. Luckily, with access to the internet and social media, it is easier than it seems. There are a number of readily available resources and tools that you can use to determine appropriate gift ideas for a child with special needs; share them with other gift givers in your child's life. Many of these resources are [linked](#) below for you.

Happy shopping and happy playing!



Toys and Play:

National Lekotek Center: www.lekotek.org is a non-profit organization that provides an array of services to improve the lives of children with special needs through the utilization of toys and play. Considered the leading authority on toys and play for children with disabilities, the play experts at Lekotek recommend considering the following aspects when selecting toys for children with special needs:

- ✓ Multi-sensory appeal

- ✓ Method of activation
- ✓ Places toy will be used
- ✓ Opportunities for Success
- ✓ Current popularity
- ✓ Self-Expression
- ✓ Adjustability
- ✓ Child's Individual Abilities
- ✓ Safety & durability
- ✓ Potential for Interaction

Consideration of each of these aspects is crucial to finding toys that are most appropriate for a child based on their abilities, challenges, environment, and interests.

Go to the link below for guides and places to buy specialty toys!

<http://www.aboutspecialkids.org/News.aspx?Id=2149>

Check Out our latest webinar

DADS - A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

(Aired October 16, 2014)

A webinar all about dads. How to be a positive influence in both a child with special needs life and the child's mothers life (whether married, living together, divorced or otherwise.). What dads can do to be involved and make a difference.

Presented by:

- Brian Replogle
- Andrew VanGordon

<http://www.aboutspecialkids.org/video/webinar/dads-a-different-perspective.aspx>

Survey Help

Please take a moment to have your voice heard by completing the Title V Needs Assessment Community Input Survey; then it pass along to your colleagues, partners, families you serve, and other stakeholders to be sure everyone gets a chance to provide their input and recommendations. The deadline to complete the survey is November 30, 2014.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TITLEV1>

